

3-2-1945

## With the Colors 3-2-1945

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## With the Colors *Mar. 2, 1945*

Sixth Army Group, France.—The American artillery battalion, in position just behind the infantry on the United States Seventh army Alsace front—had just lost two 105mm. howitzers in an enemy surprise attack. "Can you replace our losses," the 264th Ordnance company, of which Corporal John H. Orr of Yale, Illinois, is a member, was asked.

Three hours later the combat ordnancemen had made their delivery. In a few minutes these new 105's were firing in support of infantry troops which retook lost ground and on the next day recaptured the two lost howitzers.

The Germans had thrown phosphorous grenades in the howitzer's barrels in an attempt to destroy them. Again, the 264th came to the rescue, cleaning the burning phosphorous out of the barrels and saving the guns from damage.

Unusual tasks of supply and repair have become routine for the versatile 264th Ordnance company, a medium maintenance unit which began operation in December, 1944, supporting troops of Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers' Sixth Army Group.

"The capacity of this company increases with the intensity of battle," explained First Lieutenant James E. Sweeney of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, commanding officer. "All in a day's work for our various mechanic-specialists is the overhaul of 100 rifles, one 105 mm. howitzer and 12 vehicles. In a matter of hours these items are redelivered to front-line units, effecting a minimum lapse of time out of action."

Varied work of these ordnancemen who operate in shop trucks is: Weapons repair on anything from a .30 calibre rifle or a .45 calibre pistol to a 240 mm. howitzer; automotive repair on any type of vehicle; and instrument repair. Improvisation specialists are the men who work in the machine shop where the parts are made from scratch when supplies are lacking.

An evacuation crew retrieves seriously damaged vehicles and artillery pieces from the battlefield while service crews continuously tour the front to make minor repairs on the spot.

Affiliate of the Arkansas Automobile Dealers Association, the company's original members were recruited in Arkansas. It was activated on September 10, 1942, and arrived overseas on November 13, 1944.

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With U. S. Forces in Paris, France.—Staff Sergeant Levoy C. Ellsworth, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Ellsworth of Newton, Illinois, is personnel sergeant major of the Quartermaster section of an important United States Army base section headquarters in Paris.

Sergeant Ellsworth is non-commissioned officer in charge of all personnel work in his headquarters, which is charged with the efficient administration and operations of thousands of Quartermaster troops working around the clock keeping supplies rolling to the front lines.

Before service in France, Sergeant Ellsworth played a vital role in helping plan Quartermaster operations on the continent before D-day. High ranking officers highly commended him and other members of the command for their work in helping make the battle of supply a complete success before and after D-day.

Before induction in August, 1942, Sergeant Ellsworth worked with his father, who is in the oil business. He attended Beggs high school, Beggs, Oklahoma, where he was graduated in 1939. He has been stationed in the European Theatre of Operations two and a half years, having served in



both England and France.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Corporal John Howard Ross**

Corporal Ross, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Ross of Newton and husband of Nadine McKinney Ross, Newton teacher, has been two years in Iran with the Persian Gulf Service Command.

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317th General Hospital, England.—Private First Class Aden L. Crampton, 22, of Willow Hill, has recovered at this United States Army hospital from wounds received at Metz, on September 16, 1944. While at this hospital he received expert medical care, followed by a period of convalescence. He has now been released for a return to duty.

He is a member of an Infantry unit, and entered the Army on October 28, 1942. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orlin Crampton, reside at Willow Hill.

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Private Basil Auteberry has returned to Maryland after spending a seven day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Auteberry of Newton.